

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A side acting extractor tool for extracting a loose item from a slot defined in part by slot side walls, the extractor tool comprising:

(a) a handle member; and

(b) a blade member for inserting into the slot and through a clearance gap between the loose item and one of the slot side walls, the blade member having a longitudinal axis and including:

(i) a first end attached to said handle member;

(ii) a second end opposite said first end and forming a distal end;

(iii) a first side, and a second and opposite side;

(iv) a first edge, and a second and opposite edge; and

(v) a deflectable finger portion extendable from said longitudinal axis to at least one side of said first side and said second and opposite side for positioning behind a part of the loose item within the slot, thereby enabling extraction of the loose item from the slot by withdrawing the inserted blade member from the slot.

2. The side acting extractor tool of Claim 1, wherein said finger portion includes a tip section pointing towards said first end of said blade member.

3. The side acting extractor tool of Claim 1, wherein said finger portion is located near said distal end.

4. The side acting extractor tool of Claim 1, wherein said finger portion includes:

(i) a bottom section attached to said at least one side of said blade member and towards said distal end; and

(ii) a tip section extending angularly towards said first end of said blade member.

5. The side acting extractor tool of Claim 1, wherein said blade member is made of a spring material.

6. The side acting extractor tool of Claim 1, wherein said finger portion is deflectable from a sideways extended position into a non-extended position relative to said first side and said second and opposite side of said blade member.

7. The side acting extractor tool of Claim 1, wherein said finger portion is made of a spring material, has a home position extended sideways from at least one side of said first side and said second and opposite side, is deflectable by a deflecting force into a deflected position from said home position, and is freely returnable to said home position from said deflected position when free of said deflecting force.

8. The side acting extractor tool of Claim 1, wherein said blade member includes a body portion having a generally L-shaped cut into said body portion for forming said finger portion.

9. The side acting extractor tool of Claim 1, wherein said blade member includes a body portion having a generally U-shaped cut formed between said first edge and said second and opposite edge and into said body portion of said blade member for forming said finger portion.

10. The side acting extractor tool of Claim 2, wherein said tip section is spaced a distance less than a width of the keyway from said at least one side of said first side and said second and opposite side of said blade member.

11. The side acting extractor tool of Claim 8, wherein said L-shaped cut is formed from said second and opposite edge into said body portion.

12. The side acting extractor tool of Claim 8, wherein said L-shaped cut comprises an L-shaped slot.

13. The side acting extractor tool of Claim 9, wherein said U-shaped cut is formed from said second and opposite edge into said body portion.

14. The side acting extractor tool of Claim 9, wherein said U-shaped cut comprises a U-shaped slot.

15. A side acting extractor tool for extracting, from a keyway defined in part by keyway side walls, a broken key portion of a cut key, the side acting extractor tool comprising:

- (a) a handle member; and

- (b) a blade member for inserting into the keyway and through a clearance gap between the broken key portion and one of the keyway side walls, the blade member having a longitudinal axis and including:

- (i) a first end attached to said handle member;

- (ii) a second end opposite said first end and forming a distal end;

- (iii) a first side, and a second and opposite side;

- (iv) a first edge, and a second and opposite edge; and

- (v) a deflectable finger portion extending from said longitudinal axis to at least one side of said first side and said second and opposite side for wedging against a part of the broken key portion within the keyway against said at least one side of said first side and said second and opposite side, thereby enabling extraction of the wedged broken key portion from the keyway by withdrawing the inserted blade member from the keyway.

16. The side acting extractor tool of Claim 15, wherein said finger portion includes a tip section for catching against a declining slope of a key biting slope of said broken key portion.

17. The side acting extractor tool of Claim 15, wherein said blade member is generally flat.

18. The side acting extractor tool of Claim 15, wherein said blade member is made from spring steel for providing lateral strength sufficient to pull the broken key portion out of the keyway.

19. The side acting extractor tool of Claim 15, wherein said first edge extends from said first end to said second end of said blade member, and said second and opposite edge includes said deflectable finger portion.

20. The side acting extractor tool of Claim 15, wherein said deflectable finger portion is located between and spaced from said first edge and said second and opposite edge.

21. The side acting extractor tool of Claim 15, wherein said blade member has a first side to second side shim-like thickness narrow enough for enabling insertion thereof through a clearance gap between the broken key portion and a keyway side wall.

22. The side acting extractor tool of Claim 15, wherein said blade member has a maximum first edge to second edge dimension short enough for enabling it to be insertable into a space within the keyway below released tumblers in the keyway.

23. The side acting extractor tool of Claim 15, wherein said first edge is wide enough for lifting and supporting released tumblers during insertion and removal thereof from the key way.

24. The side acting extractor tool of Claim 22, wherein said shim-like thickness is about 0.025 inch.

25. A side acting extractor tool for extracting a loose item from a slot defined in part by slot side walls, the extractor tool comprising:

(a) a handle member; and

(b) a blade member for inserting into the slot and through a clearance gap between the loose item and one of the slot side walls, the blade member having a longitudinal axis and including:

(i) a first end attached to said handle member;

(ii) a second end opposite said first end and forming a distal end;

(iii) a first side, and a second and opposite side;

(iv) a first edge, and a second and opposite edge; and

(v) a deflectable finger portion extending from said longitudinal axis to at least one side of said first side and said second and opposite side for positioning behind a part of the loose item within the slot, said deflectable finger portion being formed between said first edge and said second and opposite edge, and having a first finger end attached towards said distal end of said blade member, and a cantilevered second finger end pointing towards said first end of said blade member, thereby enabling wedging and extraction of the loose item from the slot by withdrawing the inserted blade member from the slot.